(e) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents are as under :

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human errors in causing accidents.

(iii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(iv) For monitoring track geomerty and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.

(v) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vi) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(vii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(viii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(ix) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(x) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.

(xi) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xii) Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Delay in Running of Trains

2586. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received from passengers as well as their association regarding delay in running of trains and cancellation of services between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari section of the Trivandrum Railway Division;

(b) if so, any direction has been issued to ensure timely running of trains in this sector;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any action against those who are responsible for the late running of trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some complaints have been received from Passengars and Associations regarding delay in running of trains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Staff responsible for avoidable detentions have been taken up for action under Discipline and Appeal Rules.

Introduction of Direct Trains

2587. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that direct train services between Bandel and Kalyani/Ranaghat/ Krishnanagar can easily be introduced by laying a kilometer of rail line by-passing Naihati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these services can beintroduced by constructing a curve line from Garifa to Halisahar;

(d) if so, the detatils thereof;

(e) whether the earth-work of the said section still exist; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to fulfil the aspiration of a large section of people by constructing this curve line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Full Time Programmes at West Bengal

2588. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to run TV Relay Centre at Kalna in the district of Barddhaman, West Bengal full time;